



Broad Run Express: December 2017

Dear Broad Run District Residents,

This newsletter is jam-packed, so please read the entire email. Topics include: I-66 tolls, new sidewalks and trails, the new proposed elementary school in Broadlands (ES-31), the winners of the Broad Run Art Competition, and more.

I-66 Tolls

As all of you know and many of you have now experienced, the McAuliffe administration's "Transform 66 - Inside the Beltway" tolls took effect on Monday -- with disastrous results. For many of you, these \$30+ tolls are on top of Greenway and Dulles tolls. The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors has opposed this administrative action since the beginning.

This tolling system isn't what we were promised. In their proposals, VDOT said eastbound tolls would average \$7 to \$9. Now that VDOT's plans have been implemented, the actual tolls have more than doubled that figure every day this week. Further, the hours of the tolling are much longer than the old HOV restrictions -- meaning that many workers who used the road legally and unrestricted now have to buy an Easy Pass and pay the toll.

To fight these tolls, I authored and proposed a resolution for the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) calling for VDOT to take immediate action to lower tolls or to suspend the program. The full resolution is copied below.

New Sidewalks and Trails

Did you know our County is working on more than 150 capital projects? These include roads, schools, senior centers, parks, and Sheriff's stations just to name a few.

One item that hasn't been in our six-year capital program is a comprehensive plan to fix the massive amount of missing links in sidewalk and trail networks.

This will change next year, thanks to a motion passed 5-to-0 by the Transportation and Land Use Committee (TLUC) this month. I was proud to make this motion, which will add 3-to-5 miles of additional sidewalks and trails per year starting in this next year's budget. This is a huge step forward (pardon the pun!).

The Greenway

In addition to more walking, running, and biking -- we're also fighting to increase your driving options to bypass the \$6 Greenway. The Board made the Shellhorn Road extension to Route 28 (which parallels the Greenway) one of its three top requests for funding from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTa). This is largest funding source for new roads in our region. Our Board has already put this project in our capital budget in 2016 and is in the process of design and land acquisition.

As always, we also invite your feedback and invite you to reply to this email (I personally read them all). We hosted our 10th town hall of the year this month, and we love doing these because it gives our office an excellent "to-do" list. We can't be in every neighborhood every hour of every day, so we encourage you to help us help the community by identifying problems and helping come up with solutions.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Ron Meyer

Broad Run Art Competition Results

The first annual Broad Run Art Competition was a big success! We had a total of 44 entries from 4 different high schools. I'd like to extend a big "Thank You!" to our judges: Jim Sisley, Debra Keirce, and Elizabeth Bracey.

The Winners are:

3rd Place: Lexi Van Lenten -- Briar Woods High School
Madeline Howard's "Blue" -- Briar Woods High School

Kashev Bhakta's "Flying Southward" -- Rock Ridge High School

2nd Place: Sneha Bathey's "Autumn Breeze" -- Rock Ridge High School

Morgan Dunn's "Extroverted" -- Briar Woods High School

Chloe Gordon Abbott's "The Only Holiday I Get Excited About" -- Broad Run HS

1st Place: Jade Hu's "Fall Rocks" -- Rock Ridge High School

Caiden Clithero's "Life Long Friend" -- Briar Woods High School

Cynthia Molner's "Rebirth" -- Park View High School

Judge's Choice: Shelley Lee's "Sweater Weather" -- Rock Ridge High School

Best in Show: Lauren Harrison's "Allegory of Autumn" -- Rock Ridge High School



Transportation Project Updates

I-66 Tolls Inside the Beltway

Here is the resolution I proposed to the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC), where I represent Loudoun as a member.

Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) Resolution on New I-66 Tolls
December 7, 2017

WHEREAS, The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) is the recipient of revenue from the new tolls from the "Transform 66 - Inside the Beltway" project for funding to improve transit in the corridor, and

WHEREAS, NVTC includes jurisdictions which commute on I-66, including Loudoun, Fairfax, and Arlington Counties and the Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church, and

WHEREAS, the "Transform 66 - Inside the Beltway" project has been conceived, implemented, and managed by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), not NVTC; NVTC has no authority over the toll rates or management of this facility, and

WHEREAS, working Virginians cannot afford tolls more than \$35, \$20, or even \$10 dollars each way every day, and

WHEREAS, due to the new hours of operation associated with the "Transform 66 - Inside the Beltway" project, many working Virginians who previously utilized the roadway are now significantly impacted in their daily efforts to get to and from work;

- Prior to December 4th, these Virginians could utilize I-66 eastbound without restriction during the 5:30 – 6:30 AM time frames and westbound from 3 – 4 pm., and
- Prior to December 4th, these Virginians could utilize I-66 eastbound free of tolls, dynamic or otherwise, from 9 – 9:30 AM eastbound and 6:30 to 7 pm westbound., and

WHEREAS, \$35 tolls each way for every workday of the year would add up to more than \$18,000, and

WHEREAS, some working Virginians are willing to pay for new access to I-66 previously not allowed during rush hour under the HOV restrictions, but all Virginians expect tolls to be reasonable, appropriate and affordable, and

WHEREAS, no tolling revenue from this project will be used to widen I-66, and

WHEREAS, representatives from VDOT or the Office of the Governor never told the public or this Commission about this extremely high level of tolling before implementation, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NVTC calls on the Commonwealth to take immediate action regarding "Transform 66 - Inside the Beltway" to lower tolling costs, which could include reconfiguring the system and/or capping tolls. If a solution cannot be immediately implemented, than VDOT should suspend the program.

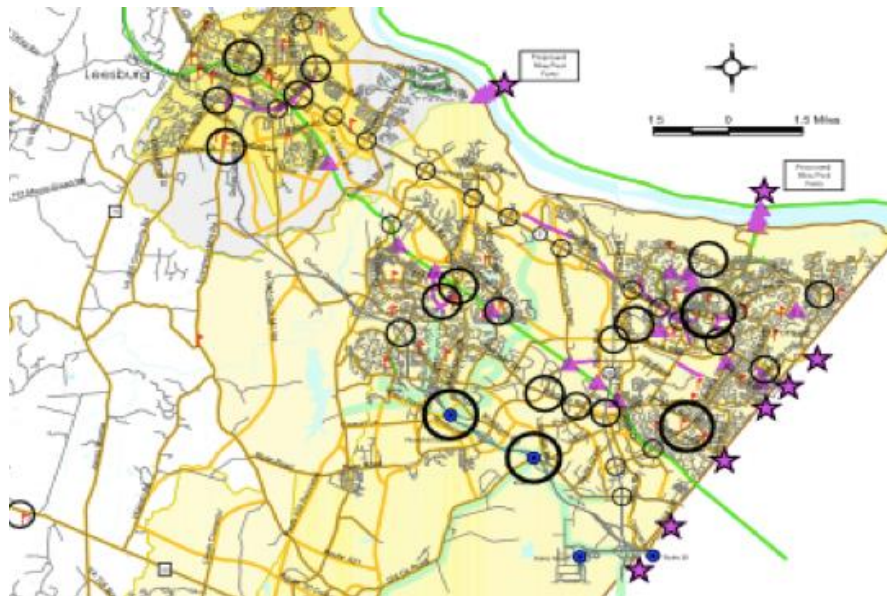
THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in the event that the program continues, NVTC calls for a modification of the hours of operation for the tolling system to reflect the prior restricted access time periods.

Shellhorn Road (Greenway Alternative)

Last month, the Board voted to make the Shellhorn Road to Sterling Boulevard extension one of our top 3 priorities to receive NVTAR regional funding. This project is the primary Greenway Alternative that we will be building. Allowing commuters to get all the way to Route 28 without having to pay any tolls will be a huge step in the right direction.

Since this vote, the county's transportation staff has requested bids for the design of this project. We will have more information on who will be designing the road soon. In the meantime, we will continue to make progress, working with landowners to acquire the property needed to build the road.

Biking and Walking Paths



My motion at the Board of Supervisors Transportation and Land Use Committee (TLUC) passed 5-0 to instruct the County Administrator to include building 3-to-5 miles of new pedestrian and bike facilities every year in this year's 6-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) in the Board Budget.

We've done 10 town hall meetings in 2017. At these town halls, one thing we keep hearing is that we need to build more sidewalks and paths to address the missing links in between neighborhoods.

The motion means our Board is going to start filling these gaps -- and it will be a funding priority. In Loudoun County, it's not acceptable to see people walking down our main roads because we don't have sidewalks.

The motion reads:

"I move that the Transportation and Land Use Committee recommend the County Administrator to include in the Capital Improvement Project program 3 to 5 miles of pedestrian and bike trails per year in the County's high priority areas, as defined by the Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations Priority List and the Metro Access Bike and Pedestrian Priority List."

Belmont Ridge Road Widening

The widening is occurring between Gloucester Road and Hay Road. A traffic shift onto the new northbound Belmont Ridge Road is tentatively scheduled for the middle of December.

Ashburn Village Blvd / Route 7 Interchange

The westbound ramp is the only portion of this project that has yet to be completed. We have been told that this ramp will open sometime during the first week of December. Once this ramp opens, the project will be complete.

Mooreview Parkway

Project remains on schedule. Grading has continued throughout the project and approximately 70% of the roadway is now at sub-grade.

Waxpool Road Widening

The widening is occurring between Faulkner and Unbridled Way. Storm pipe and infrastructure installation along the westbound lane of Waxpool Road and the Comcast relocation are complete. Night work with flagging operations will continue until the end of November. The next traffic shift is planned for the end of the month.

Proposed Elementary School Site (ES-31)

The School Board and Board of Supervisors have approved the proposed school site on the corner of Waxpool Road and Belmont Ridge Road. I was the only elected official to oppose this location.

The [*Loudoun Times-Mirror*](#) reports:

Meyer said his constituents who live in that area are "vocally opposed" to the location because traffic will have to go through their neighborhood, and their kids will have to move schools when there is another elementary school almost a third of a mile away.

"I also don't believe it to be a good deal for the county. Monetarily we're building significant improvements, millions of dollars ... that will benefit a residential developer without the compensation that we should have gotten for those improvements that we will be providing. So I don't think it's a good deal for the county. I believe it's a bad site, we have other sites that are available in the county that this School Board and their representatives did not pursue that they could have pursued," Meyer said.



True North Data Center Application

On December 5, I voted in favor of the True North Data Center application near Leesburg, which has been sent to committee. I supported this application very reluctantly and agree with many of the concerns about it.

This site is across the street from a water treatment facility (which is also along Goose Creek) and another data center site that was in the 2000 Transition Policy Area. Before supporting this, I personally negotiated the applicant to proffer 60% open space, add significant tree save areas along the Greenway (where there are rare rock

formations), add a tree wall blocking the view of the data center from Sycolin Road, and proffer a water runoff mitigation system that is the best available (and much cleaner than the by-right residential development use).

These proffers are unheard of with any other data center in the region, especially in Eastern Loudoun -- and including the data centers directly across the Greenway.

Ashburn residents are tired of data centers in Eastern Loudoun, and if it didn't go here (next to other industrial and data centers), it was going to come as multiple buildings in suburban Ashburn. If it came to Ashburn, we don't have the zoning authority to demand the major concessions I listed above. It would just be more tree-less block buildings. Due to previous Board decisions long before I was elected, we don't even have legal authority to stop the growth of data centers in Eastern Loudoun.

With this location, Loudoun will get more than \$20 million per year in revenue (which is bigger than the libraries budget), and we need this money for schools and roads. We do need to have a conversation about the future of data centers in Loudoun as we vote on the County's new Comprehensive Plan. I agree that it is getting too dense.

Town Hall Meetings

Lake Shore Condominiums



On November 16th, our office held a Town Hall Meeting at the Lake Shore Condominiums Clubhouse. We had several folks from Ashbrook and Ashburn Village also in attendance. Many questions were asked regarding missing links on

walking and biking paths. We are working diligently to get these missing trails built as soon as possible.

Broadlands

Last week, we had our 3rd Town Hall meeting of the year in Broadlands. I was pleased to have a great discussion about the intersection of Waxpool Road and Demott Drive. I will continue to seek input from the community on safety solutions for this intersection.

Ribbon Cuttings

We had the pleasure to be a part of three ribbon cuttings recently. The first was **Waltonwood Ashburn**. I'm excited to welcome this new senior living community to the Broad Run District and to represent all of the new residents!



The second ribbon cutting was the new **Barnes & Noble** bookstore in One Loudoun. The new layout that this store has is second to none.



Xfinity

Last night, I was able to take part in the grand opening of the Xfinity Store in One Loudoun. This new retail experience that Comcast has created is absolutely incredible and I highly recommend checking it out.



Ashburn Volunteer Fire & Rescue Upcoming Events



Christmas Tree Sales - Nov. 24 until Dec. 23 (Wreaths, Ornaments and Cards too) - Station 6, Ashburn Road, Ashburn, for hours see: <https://ashburnfirerescue.org/events>

Volunteer Firefighters and EMTs needed. Gear up and join the action! (Admins needed too!). Free training, Uniforms & Personal Protective Gear Provided; Benefits: tax savings, retirement benefits, tuition assistance, free training and more: (next meeting at firehouse will be Dec 19th) for more details go to: <https://ashburnfirerescue.org>

DID YOU KNOW?? - AVFRD is a designated CFC (Combined Federal Campaign) recipient - Our five digit code is - 51688.

Look for us on: <https://facebook.com/avfrd>. Your contributions to benefit AVFRD are always appreciated.

Loudoun Sponsors Youth Suicide Prevention/Mental Health Awareness Video Contest



Loudoun County's efforts to help promote mental health and wellness among the community's youth have expanded to include a public service announcement (PSA) video contest. Young people are being asked to produce a video PSA about suicide prevention and mental health awareness.

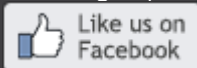
The Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services is accepting video entries from those of middle-school and high-school age through the end of February 2018. The video content may include general information about the

prevention of youth suicide, how to recognize and respond when someone is struggling, how to help others and how to encourage those in need to seek help.

Loudoun County has a number of mental health resources available to young people, including the Suicide Prevention Alliance of Northern Virginia (SPAN), the Mental Health First Aid program, LINC (Linking Individuals & Navigating Care), the Crisis Intervention Team Assessment Center, and the Loudoun County Public Schools Depression Awareness and Suicide Prevention Program.

Links to these resources and more information about the video contest, including rules and guidelines, may be found at www.loudoun.gov/SuicidePrevention

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